

ADVISORY NO. 307
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**TOPIC: CHANGE TO 4TH EDITION OF THE *AMA GUIDES* TO THE
EVALUATION OF PERMANENT IMPAIRMENT**

We are attaching TWCC-Advisory 2001-08. Please review Rule 130.1(c)(2)(a) and (b). This new Advisory addresses the appropriate edition to use in calculating the impairment rating. Prior to October 15, 2001, the appropriate edition is the Third Edition, Second Printing, of the *AMA Guides* dated February 1989.

Beginning on October 15, 2001, the appropriate edition is the Fourth Edition of the *AMA Guides* (1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th printing including corrections and changes issued by the AMA prior to May 16, 2000).

However, if at the time of the certifying examination, there is a certification of MMI made by a doctor prior to October 15, 2001, which has not been withdrawn through agreement of the parties or overturned by a final decision, the appropriate edition of the *AMA Guides* is the Third Edition, Second Printing dated February 1989.

If an impairment rating is disputed, the letter from the Commission assigning the designated doctor will indicate the appropriate edition of the *Guides* that will be used by the designated doctor.

We expect that the TWCC-69 (Report of Medical Evaluation [Rev. 5/94]) will be revised in the near future. However, until the revised TWCC-69 form is available, doctors certifying MMI and using the Fourth Edition of the *AMA Guides* are required to strike through the words "Third Edition, Second Printing, February 1989" in block 18 of the current TWCC form TWCC-69, and write by hand the "Fourth Edition" in block 18.

If the TWCC-69 form does not have the required change to block 18, but the narrative report clearly indicates that the Fourth Edition was used, it shall be assumed that the Fourth Edition was used in the assignment of that impairment rating.

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